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Testimony in Support of LD 1624 – Resolve, To Create a Stakeholder Group to Identify the Needs of Long-term Family Caregivers

Good day, Senator Claxton, Representative Myers and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Betsy Sawyer-Manter; I am the CEO of SeniorsPlus, one of the five Agency's on Aging in the state serving Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties, and also the statewide provider of care coordination for those seeking to remain in their homes. The goal of SeniorsPlus is to assist older and disabled people to age well so that they are able to stay at home, independently, as long as possible.

As the Area Agency on Aging in Western Maine, we provide family caregivers with a number of supportive services. We provide one to one assistance, support groups and respite budgets. Our staff are also trained in the delivery of SAVVY Caregiver, an evidenced based program aimed at educating and supporting caregivers of people with Alzheimer's.

LD 1624, will provide a broad array of providers that currently support caregivers an opportunity to review and recommend assessment tools and protocols for 3 types of caregivers; those caring for older and disabled people, Veterans and IDD people.

I support LD 1624 and will be honored to serve on the Stakeholder group. Family Caregivers provide thousands of hours of care throughout our state and are the unsung heroes of long and short term care in Maine. They often give up careers and lifestyles to care for their loved ones throughout Maine.

Thank you for reading my testimony.